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Memorial of County Com'rs in Washington State

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 4, 1892.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ALLEN presented the following

MEMORIAL OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PIERCE COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON, PRAYING THAT IMMEDIATE ACTION BE TAKEN FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL REMOVAL OF THE RESTRICTIONS UNDER WHICH THE LANDS OF THE PUYALLUP INDIAN RESERVATION ARE NOW HELD.

To the honorable the Senate and

House of Representatives of the United States of America:

Your petitioners, the board of county commissioners of Pierce County, State of Washington, respectfully represent:

That Pierce County lies at the head of Puget Sound, and has a population of about 65,000 people, and contains within its limits the city of Tacoma and several smaller cities, all growing rapidly; that the greater part of the county is good agricultural land, except in the mountainous regions, where there are large bodies of valuable timber and extensive deposits of coal and other minerals.

Intervening between the county seat—Tacoma—and the most populous as well as the most productive, both in agriculture and mining, outlying portions of the county, is the Puyallup Indian Reservation, which stretches from the waters of the Sound on the north and east of Tacoma across her eastern borders and around to the south and southeast, a strip of land about 4 miles in width and 6 miles in length and containing more than 18,000 acres of valuable land, mostly agricultural.

That the great increase in population, development of mines, and improvements of agricultural, fruit, and garden lands in Pierce County during the past ten years has, necessitated heavy expenditures in the construction of roads and bridges—the road tax for 1891 being \$63,000—and two of the most important roads of the county extend across this reservation, having together a total of 10 miles within the reservation limits. These roads, owing to the nature of the soil on the bottom lands, have been very expensive, costing the county \$23,000. Other roads are required within the reservation to make its rich agricultural lands accessible and to enable their owners to market their products, as well as to shorten the distance between outside farmers and gardeners and the city markets; but by reason of the conditions and restrictions under which the lands are held by the Indian owners no improvements can be made in this direction, as the portions of the county which pay the taxes justly ask that their taxes be not diverted from their roads and expended in improvements along lands many fold more val-

uable, and yet which pay no revenue to the county or State, as the lands of the Indians are not subject to taxation. In the demands for roads the Indians are as importuning as the other citizens, and in their appeals for assistance they express a willingness that their lands should stand their just proportion of the cost of constructing roads, if the restrictions under which they occupy their lands are removed and they are allowed to hold their realty as other citizens of the United States own their property.

We, therefore, in the interest of the county which we represent, most respectfully urge that you take immediate action for the unconditional removal of the restrictions under which these lands are now held. And we will ever pray.

It is ordered that this memorial be spread upon the records of the proceedings of the board, this 27th day of January, 1892.

C. T. FAY,
Chairman of Board.

STATE OF WASHINGTON,
County of Pierce, ss:

I, W. H. Hollis, auditor in and for said county of Pierce, hereby certify that the foregoing instrument of writing is a full and correct copy of a memorial made by the board of county commissioners in and for Pierce County, State of Washington, and to be found in record of commissioners' proceedings, volume 8, page —.

Witness my hand and official seal this 28th day of January, 1892.

[SEAL.]

W. H. HOLLIS,

Auditor in and for the County of Pierce, State of Washington.

